

This Old House

SPECIAL READER-CREATED ISSUE

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more than
\$10,560
with these
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Best-ever BEFORE + AFTERS

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100%
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Cover Photography by MICHAEL T. ROBBINS
Styling by MARIELLE WILSON

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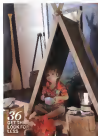


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PRESENTS

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Reader mail

WE LOVE HEARING TOH readers' stories about remodeling. We saved some recent favorites to share in this special reader-created issue. The words of the homeowners below are a sample of many that made us reflect and laugh and remember that home improvement is so much more than just boards and nails and drywall.



"It changed who we are"

Ever hear that song "Where the Green Grass Grows"? For our first home, it was our dream to live the simple life, to escape the city. We wanted a garden, an orchard, a shop for my husband Justin's cars, open space for dogs and kids to run. We wanted goats named after *The Andy Griffith Show* characters. So we bought the farm.

The hardest part of our remodel was that overbearing sense of despair when you have an idea what you're doing and are completely burned out. The best part? It changed who we are. We have become more well rounded, more humble, and a better team as husband

and wife. We learned we were capable of any job if we were determined and worked together. I love cooking in my new kitchen, hosting big crowds in our new dining room, and not lugging laundry up and down the stairs. Most of all I love that we are living our dream, and the journey that has been.

—**Megan Moore** TAY.DRIBBLE, GA
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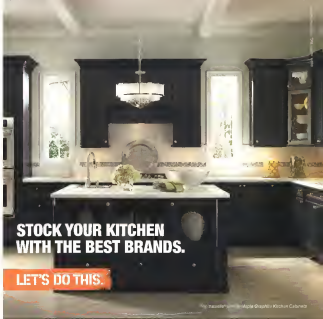
"I can do this"

My husband, Mark, decided on buying our 1920 bungalow because he looked around and said, "I can do this." He gutted, painted, scraped, drilled, stapled, glued, dug up, filled in, cut wires, cut pipes, painted, stained, and rebuilt or custom-built everything he could. He worked on the house right up until the summer before he had a heart murmur diagnosis, when he was so tired that he could barely lift his drill. He fought this battle the way he approached his life. Do it right or don't do it at all. But it was not to be. He passed away in February.

He left me a legacy of love, sweat, and tears (yes, blood too), and every day I feel an overwhelming sense of loss and all he did to make this home for me. I look around and I remember every job and who did it. The house isn't done yet and probably never will be, but I will continue to be an caretaker as I tackle the jobs to come. landscaping, a bathroom redo, electrical upgrades, and a flat roof he never got to, which, of course, is landscaping.



Megan and Justin Moore discuss all of the work themselves on their Georgia farmhouse.



By: Marshall, O'Connor Appleton Kitchen Cabinets

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*As reported in the Alliance for Audited Media June 2014 Postcard Statement

Reader mail

Thank you for the love of home you share with us in TOH! It is your legacy to your family and they feel it, no matter how expensively it gets sometimes.

Now, do I want a roll of paper or a rubber membrane, and why are these items part of my vocabulary?!

—Cathy Rivers CHOCOLATE WOODS

"Family, Friends, TOH, and Google"

My wife, Nola, and I—with the help of many friends—started a full renovation of our soon-to-be new home recently. I am so thankful I had a jack-of-all-trades dad who taught me so many skills. Along with my memories of him, I have years of watching TOH TV that have taught me well.

As Nola and I say: "Family, Friends, TOH, and Google." Grant us the courage to fix the things we can, the humility to call in for help when we are in over our heads, and the wisdom to know the difference!"

—Wendy BALLOTT DOWNEY



"I haven't even seen it yet!"

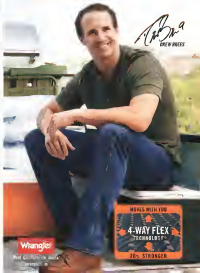
During my recent 12-month deployment to Afghanistan, your show was my stress release. Growing up, I spent a lot of time building with my grandfather—a master carpenter and my hero. Carpentry has always been my outlet, and every time I build something, I think of him. I recently bought my first house, in Maryland. I haven't even seen it yet, but I have so many projects to do. Since my grandfather isn't here anymore, I turned to TOH for advice. Every day after work I would log on to YouTube and go straight to the videos in the TOH channel. Thank you for making my deployment easier and for all the knowledge.

—Sgt. Joshua Schneider AIR MAIL

HOW TO REACH THE EDITORS
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Letter FROM THE EDITOR

You're committed. As in, kinda insane.

Sometimes I think about you all, and it makes me wonder about the readers of other magazines. I wonder if the reader of *Home* designs and watches own content. I ask myself, do the people who read *How Applet* don't sugar and clogs and cook a hundred meals a night and yell like Gordon Ramsay? Does the reader of *Popular Science* slip into crazy-overstated mode, put on those dark goggles and wear a glowing helmet, trying to perform cold fusion experiments in his or her basement?

In the mean, I'm gonna say yes to all of the above. And that, I think, is what makes all of you special. Because you, in fact, do the home-improvement equivalent of those things. You engage with the subject matter of *This Old House* in a way that readers of any other magazine—and especially other home magazines—would never do. It's amazing. Or, to put it another way, none.

And we love you for it.

The editors here at TOH see the passionate hands-on, fire-in-the-pot, do-whatever-it-takes-to-make-a-house-a-home spirit that our six-and-a-half-million readers have, and we are awed by it. Happens every year at this time, when we pore over your letters to pull all your work together for your reader-created issue. It's on every page, with people like Sheryl Kandler Pulner and David Lebel, who would just not let illness or injury stop them in their quest to make a better place to live (see page 64). Or Darlene Young, who wouldn't let a power outage keep her from making Christmas dinner. She used a candleless drill to whip up her matched owner portraits. And it's certain there is the story about Jim Peterson, the winner of this year's Search for America's Best Remodel, who not only quit his day job to overhaul his New Jersey farmhouse but also bought the equipment and taught himself to make miles of roofing for the place. He deserves the \$5,000 grand prize for that. Meanwhile, there's Robert Youmans, who does time to be a light installation and wood 17 backyard garden beds and has also put in the work to win remodeling awards through the years for a really every room in his house, including the bath we're featuring on page 80. I wouldn't compete with that record! Oh, but there is one record my wife and I will be able to compete with: Joe Landreger's. His remodel has lasted for 35 years—and counting.



The editor made the merits of some of the 2,400 letters sent in by readers is that you help us make this issue.



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house on
our cover

Download the free Bigger app, scan the cover of this issue, and snap your own photo to see your remodel in TOH. Watch for the Bigger icon on other pages to instantly access photo galleries, shopping deals, and more.

Scott Ouellette, Editor
scott@thisoldhouse.com



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Edited by Michelle Bremer

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Copper leaf wreath how-to



Kristin
McDonagh
BLOOMINGTON
INDIANA

Don't ever say that jewelry designer Kristin McDonagh doesn't face a life challenge. Designing a realistic craft competition with her female relatives, she came up with a weekly design (we're posting yours) inspired by the local looking-fall foliage near her soul here Indiana home. She made her simple leaves from leaved copper shavings she had on hand, but you can maintain the look from the materials below for about \$50. Here's how she did it.

1. Draw leaf forms onto thin, pliable copper shavings for flashing, and cut them out with scissors. To get them some color variation, burnish the copper by quickly running a piece of steel over the metal. Let cool. For deeper color, keep repeating. Bend the individual leaves gently to give them some dimension.
2. To make a base for the wreath, thread wire through copper refrigeration coil to form a circle. Avoiding rough wire to make sleepily hanging the wreath (you could also use a wire wreath form). With hammers, pound the base of the copper wreath flat.
3. Using sharp glue gun, affix the leaf forms to the wreathbase, layering them so that the base is completely covered.



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Standout storage

Whether reimagining what old nooks can bring, much-needed tidiness to cluttered spaces, FOH readers are home-organization heroes. Check out your clever handiwork here! —JENNIFER LANGE



Not a single inch wasted

After designing a custom double vanity for our master bath, we were left with most boxes of space on each side. My wife had the idea for space rack-style storage, so I built these pullouts.

—Tigra Flory
DRAKE, NEW JERSEY



New ideas in window dressing

When we lost a bedroom window to our master bathroom, we decided to turn it into a focal point. My father-in-law constructed the shelves and we added trim and corner pieces which we picked up for less than \$25.

—D.J. Neekowse
BOAZ, ALABAMA



Decorative and handy, too!

Using cabinets and shelving from another project, I created open shelving in my kitchen. I love seeing my favorite dishes in their ornate glass plates. Even the coffee cups hang from hooks, so they're easy to grab!

—Jennifer Rung
CAZENOVIA, NEW YORK



Best Gift Ever.

For my fourth birthday, I asked for better organization. Fortunately my husband is a weekend carpenter, so he designed and built these lockers in our mudroom using plywood and paper. They carry the kids' backpacks and hold their shoes. They even give me back a bit of my sanity!

—Maggie Wilson
WOODBRIDGE, CALIF.



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BARGAINS TO BRAG ABOUT



Julie Scott
FARMAC, VIRGINIA

ITEM: Vintage buffet turned tea/coffee bar (shown at left)

PRICE: \$145

I knew this sideboard would be perfect for our kitchen—it just needed paint. And it was a lot cheaper than buying an espresso bar.



Kat Horvath
NATION, PENNSYLVANIA

ITEM: Drop-in bathtub

PRICE: \$25

I couldn't believe we found a tub for this price. It was the best deal in our bath store.



Jennie Dine
RIVER, MA

ITEM: Shallow white farmhouse sink

PRICE: \$50

It has a small, hairline crack, but that's almost totally invisible by the countertop. It was definitely worth it!



Kirtleek Witter
SEVEN, MARYLAND

ITEM: Granite counters

PRICE: \$200

We purchased several slabs of granite from a contractor at auction. Our husband learned to cut them from a online tutorial.



Darla and Tracy
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

ITEM: Kitchen cabinets (39 upper, matching quartz countertops, and pendant lights)

PRICE: \$2,425

Our cabinet is made with counter tops and tons of extras. We didn't have gotten the same deal anywhere else.



Paul Permy
BELLICIA, MASSACHUSETTS

ITEM: Two-story wall-mounted double

PRICE: \$40

The contractor had some work on mind. They're perfect for my situation.

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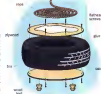


DIY rope ottoman



Denise Rodriguez
SEATTLE

Inspired by her years living aboard a fishing boat, Denise Rodriguez wanted to add a coastal element to her living room. "I fell in love with an abaca ottoman, but it was too expensive, so I made my own," she says. With a little patience and a lot of glue, Denise created a statement piece from a used tire she got for free (you may want to rinse off yours with diluted bleach) and ¾-inch manila rope. Follow how to make one.



- ▶ Cut two circles of plywood 1/8 inch smaller than the diameter of the tire. Using six farhead screws, affix the plywood to the tire. Taper the wood's edges with a palm sander.
- ▶ Fill in the beads with caulk to create a smooth surface for the rope; let dry.
- ▶ Spread a layer of construction adhesive on the plywood, then use a hot glue gun to secure the end of the rope to the center of the plywood and begin coiling. Wind the rope, gluing as you go; let dry.
- ▶ Screw in wood furniture feet (3/8 inch at home centers) to elevate the ottoman to coffee-table height. —RUSSELL M. LAUBNER

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Ways you wowed us

From a secret passage to a schoolhouse turned guest cottage, these seven projects prove once again that there's no shortage of creativity when TOH readers remodel. —KATHY HILL

Tin-coved ceiling

"We were inspired by an antique store my husband and I like to frequent where the white glass is done with tin. I liked the idea of having tin in an accent so we had a custom-mixed tin in order to put the recess in the ceiling, and chose a chrome finish."

—**Jac Pratt** PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS



Eclectic guest cottage

The little cottage on our property when we used as a schoolhouse many years ago had such a unique architectural style. We wanted to preserve the great details, like the tiled roof. We picked up the house and made it level, replaced many shingles, repaired the original windows, and installed Bermuda shutters for added extra charm.

—**Michael Solari** DELAND, FLORIDA



Secret passage

"The architect in the west coast brought out house access to my office upstairs. I did all the masonry myself out of sagelli wood and designed the staircase to accommodate the tight space. There is 200 square feet behind the fireplace you'd never know was there."

—**Tracy Portante** AMHERST, NEW YORK



Intricate Italianate

"We wanted to do this beautiful old house justice. I climbed up scaffolding 20 feet high to work on the exterior, even though I'm terrified at heights. We cleaned up the brick and painted it white, and preserved shades of gray to bring out the original details."

—**Jeff Young** READING, PENNSYLVANIA



PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



Outdoor oasis

"We had a bare backyard with a lawn, but now it's a secret terrace perfect for entertaining. We especially love the fireplace mantle, which was salvaged from a century-old greenhouse property that's been in our family for over 100 years."

—**Lisa and Chris Barr** RUSTON, LOUISIANA



Problem-solving shoring

"The built-in in our daughter's room was my husband's branch. We had a wall with several angles, and an old burglar for the HVAC and ductwork that couldn't be removed. Now, with a window seat and some crown molding, it's a focal point."

—**Heather Thibodeaux** LAKEVILLE, MARYLAND



Historical brick floor

"We wanted to bring back the look of traditional New Orleans brick, like you'd see in the sidewalks 100 years ago. So we collected bricks from neighbors and Craigslist—we even found some under our garden beds—and laid them all by hand."

—**Ryan Patrick** NEW ORLEANS

They gut-rehabbed a bath for \$877

An opened-up layout and all new finishes and fixtures take a full bath from dreary to cottage-charming



before

BEFORE Specialty painting and an interior wall made the space feel small and dark. **AFTER** Removing the wall that enclosed the toilet room helped open up the space, and staining 1 foot from the room's edge for the tub surrounded opening a sunny window. Lightly green walls and vintage-style finishes throughout give the room a fresh look.



Angie and Colby Campbell
SHOWER: MARI

before bumping the shower space 1 foot into the adjacent office to open to the window and brighten the bath. After Colby popped in the new acrylic tub, Angie added subway tiles to the shower walls and tiles to the floor. New baseboards and MDF beadboard on the ceiling helped further the vintage cottage look. Angie found a sturdy wood buffet on Craigslist that the couple converted into a vanity and installed perpendicular to the old sink space. She painted it gray and screwed in new porcelain knobs before painting the walls a retro minty green. New lighting, plus a DIY mirror and rope shelves, fresh the space. The result is a soothing retreat—and the couple's favorite space. "Everything was bowed in before," says Angie. "Now it feels a thousand times bigger and more luxurious." —MELANIE BARR



THE PROJECT TALLY

Tore out old parking and flooring, removing the wall enclosing the toilet and bumping out the back wall of the tub/shower by 1 foot \$80

Installed a new acrylic tub, showerhead and tub filler \$260

Tiled the shower and the floor \$300

Added new baseboard, plus MDF beadboard on the sloped ceiling \$70

Saved a used buffet on Craigslist that the couple painted and converted to a vanity \$52

Painted the walls a soft green \$50

Installed overhead lighting to brighten the space and a new vent/fanlight \$25

Turned a plain mirror self-storing wood, then made a rope wall and rope shelf using salvaged wood found in the basement \$10

TOTAL **\$877**

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You've got pull(s)

From curvy classics to sleeker updates, today's bin pulls run the style gamut

BY MEGAN BAKER • PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK LUND



Danielle Pratt
WILKINS PARK, ALABAMA
I wanted something small,
I've got deep kitchen drawers.

BOOKING THE show and of center in this year's search for America's Best Remodel, we saw the pulls pop up in kitchens and bathrooms alike. These alternatives to traditional handle cradles are in the old 1800s, thanks to an expensive shape that looks extra rich when opening deep drawers. Simple originals gave way to fancy scrollwork versions, angular Craftsman styles, and curvy Art Deco models. Here and on the following pages, find 19 of our favorite current styles, inspired by you.

1 > botanical border

HICKORY HARMONY
Shown at Zine with an aged brass finish
Size: 3 inches center to center
Hickory Harmony. Rustic detailing and chunky forms evoke French country style. \$5.46. mykasa.com

2 > classic cup

ALL ABOUT MARY
Shown at Zine with an oil-rubbed bronze finish
Size: 2 1/2 inches center to center
Highlighter. Task-oriented construction and curved shell to enhance grip. Half-inch pull. \$6.62. allaboutmary.com

3 > sleek silver

AMERICAN
Shown at Zine with a polished brass finish
Size: 3 1/2 inches center to center
Highlighter. The industrial look is softened by a weathered finish. \$6.75. highlighter.com

Hardware
that packs
a style
punch



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4> fluted shape

HOUSE OF ANTIQUE

Made of zinc with silver-tone finish.
Size: 2 inches center to center.
Highlights: Antiqued, Art Deco-style
mix of straight lines and soft curves.
\$9.18, vintage.com

5> aged look

LIBERTY HANGING

Made of brass with a patina finish.
Size: About 2 1/2 inches center to center.
Highlights: Rusted designs and a
roughened brass finish on edge.
\$5.50, belle.com

6> squared off

HOUSE OF ANTIQUE

Made of zinc with silver-tone finish.
Size: 2 inches center to center.
Highlights: Angular paths are right at
home with simple brushed-style texture.
\$5.50, vintage.com

7> backplated

HOUSE OF ANTIQUE

Made of brass with silver-tone finish.
Size: 2 1/2 inches center to center.
Highlights: This authentic reproduction
of a popular early 20th-century design
shows off exposed screw heads. \$4.99,
houseofantique.com

8> long and lean

LIBERTY HANGING

Made of zinc alloy with silver-tone finish.
Size: 3 1/2 inches center to center.
Highlights: Art Deco-inspired style lends
after a slender profile, perfect for a
candy. \$6.42, vintage.com

9> stately scrolls

HOUSE OF ANTIQUE

Made of brass with silver-tone finish.
Size: 2 1/2 inches center to center.
Highlights: Refined details make this
piece showstopper. \$7.14, vintage.com

10> warm glow

LIBERTY HANGING

Made of zinc alloy.
Size: 2 inches center to center.
Highlights: This shiny copper finish takes
center stage as an elongated version of
the classic. \$4.30, houseofantique.com

11> basketweave

HOUSE OF ANTIQUE

Made of zinc with an
antiqued bronze finish.
Size: 1 1/2 inches center to center.
Highlights: Basketweave design brings
intricate details just like for a real.
\$4.99, houseofantique.com

12> roped in

HOUSE OF ANTIQUE

Made of zinc alloy.
Size: About 2 1/2 inches center to center.
Highlights: A braided border adds
detail to this plate. \$4.31, houseofantique.com

13> mirror image

HOUSE OF ANTIQUE

Made of polished nickel.
Size: 3 inches center to center.
Highlights: Shiny chrome and a berry
shape can go contemporary or vintage.
\$5.49, houseofantique.com

14> etched edges

HOUSE OF ANTIQUE

Made of brass without
an etched design in the
center. \$6 inches center to center.
Highlights: Exposed screw heads bring a
bit of an edge to this sculptural style.
\$7, houseofantique.com

15> a hint of copper

HOUSE OF ANTIQUE

Made of zinc alloy.
Size: 2 inches center to center.
Highlights: Copper accents give
this elongated design a warm glow.
\$4.45, houseofantique.com

16> Victorian style

HOUSE OF ANTIQUE

Made of zinc with silver-tone finish.
Size: About 2 1/2 inches center to center.
Highlights: A turn-of-the-century
design. \$5.49, houseofantique.com

17> sleek curves

HOUSE OF ANTIQUE

Made of brass without
an etched design in the
center. \$6 inches center to center.
Highlights: Soft patina and a
rounded edge make this a
modern take on a classic.
\$5.99, houseofantique.com

18> weathered copper

HOUSE OF ANTIQUE

Made of zinc alloy.
Size: 2 inches center to center.
Highlights: An etched design and a
sleek surface make a classic look
new. \$3.75, houseofantique.com

19> dark detailing

HOUSE OF ANTIQUE

Made of zinc with an
antiqued bronze finish.
Size: 2 1/2 inches center to center.
Highlights: Intricate designs give this
piece a dark, moody look. \$5, houseofantique.com

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Homemade stencil + primer + paint = brand-new floor

BY DEBORAH BALDWIN



Lori Dunbar
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
"This was a chance to do something creative."

WHEN LORI DUNBAR pulled up her sonroom carpet, then the four main layers of flooring and underlayments beneath it, she was surprised to uncover not the hard maple found elsewhere in the house but battered pine. "And it was in really rough shape," she says. "So I thought, This is a chance to do something creative." A graphic designer by trade, Lori used Adobe Illustrator software to tweak a blossom design she found online, making it larger and more stylized. That would be her template for a hand-cut foam-core stencil, with dots between the petals to serve not only as a flower's but also as a guide for lining up the stencil as she moved it across the floor. After a good sanding of the floor, Lori put down a coat of primer, followed by three coats of pearly and floor paint in glossy egg-yolk yellow. Starting in the middle of the room, she used a small paintbrush and white paint to fill in the pattern, using just one coat for an aged look. Two coats of polyurethane provided added scuff protection. "The motif is beautiful on its own," says Lori. "And the color is so cheerful. No wonder everyone loves this room!" ■



FOR THE STEP-BY-STEP:
To find Lori Dunbar's template and how to stain the pine with the primer, visit www.sherrin-williams.com/hgtvhome.

How to Cook up a New Floor Finish



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Looking to do some home improvement projects? Using the BuyPower Card from Capital One® when you make purchases for the home will help you accumulate Rewards fast, which can be redeemed toward a new Chevrolet, Buick, GMC or Cadillac vehicle. Need inspiration? Here are some refreshing ideas.



GREEN THUMB

A beautiful garden doesn't just enhance the look of your home—the art of gardening can actually help you relax.



CROWN JEWEL

Easy-to-install crown molding is a budget-friendly way to turn an ordinary room into a truly elegant space.



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This kid camps out at home

Rustic finds, vintage wares, and handmade touches animate the living quarters of a little explorer

BY KATHERINE O'BRIEN, EVANSTON • PHOTOGRAPHY BY HELEN NORMAN



Heather and Dave Tibbels

WARMVILLE, MARYLAND
"He's got a lot of spirit, and now his room reflects that."

CALL IT ONE PARTY Adirondack lodge, complete Boy Scout den. The bedroom Heather and Dave Tibbels put together for their 3-year-old son, Hudson, demonstrates just again how DIY can really deliver. The couple used a dream decorative painting technique to color the walls, fashioned a nest from a ratty blanket, and saved money by scoring resale shops, Etsy, and eBay for wacky elements, such as tree-stump seats and an antler chandelier. "We also made sure to include quirky pops of color, like the orange desk and pillows, to keep things playful and childlike," says Heather. Read on for ways to really make a room for your own wild thing.

patchwork madras drapes

Hudson's grandfather saved his uniforms from storage room-for-fabric. This version has a black-and-white print—ideal for nautical maps. \$40 for a 44-by-64-inch curtain, etsy.com



ship-style sconce
Ironless steel and glass, this light strikes the same note as the homeowner's poster version. \$40, etsy.com

mom and dad brought the outdoors in



bandanna pillows

Save your own bandana cushions covers from 20-inch square bandannas (the dust size for 18-inch square pillows) in long-wearing polyester. \$10 for a dozen, bandanna.com



antler chandelier

Lighting made from deer racks is a rustic nod to nature. This one, featuring a large rack, is a fraction of the price. \$189, homedecor.com. Linen lampshades: \$4.50 each, lowe.com



orange desk

Find an old teacher's desk at a thrift shop, or pick up and paint this pine number. Desk: \$275, etsy.com. Vignette: \$100, etsy.com. \$42 per gallon, at [Lowe's stores](http://lowe.com)

camp blanket

Oregon-made Pendleton blankets are a Wild West staple. This one is wool and cotton blend, which softens the feel—and the price. Starting at \$200, pendleton.com



no-frills chair

In a nod to cabin life, this industrial style seat echoes the homeowners' fire market. End as left. The brushed-steel finish gives it old-school patina. \$100, etsy.com

sleek storage

Toys, papers, and clothes get hidden in the drawer, good-looking books get displayed on the shelves. Heather says of Hudson's pullch: \$25, etsy.com



denim walls

The Tibbelses painted over a base coat of Behr's to mount Cream with Shalimar. Wilkins's Bridge-Built brand with blue glue. Putting over it top to bottom and side to side with a foam roller brush created the look. From, from \$30 per gallon, at lowe.com

• get this look for less



fox campfire

This kid-friendly version of a roaring blaze (with a insert) is hand-stitched of felt spun from recycled plastic bottles. Three Woo Wookings fire. \$23. and 7 more. 56.etsy.com



stump seat

Contact an artisan for a slice of a downed tree you can sit on or back and then age and sand yourself. Or opt for this silky smooth, splinter- and bug-free reclaimed redwood one inspired by All Things stump. \$95. 56.etsy.com

DIY

A frame from Woodlot doesn't have a lot of To make this one, we drilled 1/2-inch holes near one end of four red oak (2x2s) and inserted a 1/2-inch dowel to create the frame, securing the crosspieces with late twine. Then we cut an army blanket to size and tuck it over the top and find off the blanket corners. \$35. galaxyempress.com



vintage-sign art
For graphic punch, the homeowners mounted cotton dish towels printed with retro fishing scenes in wood frames. Set off with frame. \$22. etsy.com Pine look frame. \$21. wayfair.com



wood ears
The homeowners found their vintage paddles online. And so did the price of them. www.wood-ears.com



vintage-creef

An angler's shoulder sling wicker basket serves as a catchall for Hubert's fishing-related antiques. We found this look-alike one for \$39.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JENNIFER HARRIS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE. STYLING BY JESSICA HARRIS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE. HAIR BY JESSICA HARRIS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE. MAKEUP BY JESSICA HARRIS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE.

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He's got a head for sheds

A yen for a garden shed in an awkward backyard corner led this design-savvy homeowner to build one his way. BY KATE KRAM



ALAN CASOLITTO
LAGUNA HILLS, CALIFORNIA
I wanted a shed that was a focal point, not an eyesore.

SQUARE PEG, ROUND HOLE? No problem for an industrial designer like Alan Casolitto. When he spotted a piece of a fence L-shaped outbuilding that wouldn't quite fit along his fence, he simply applied his engineering skills

to create his own version. He suggested the irregular shed's perfectly perpendicular shape to accommodate the 110-degree angle of his lot so that the wing that houses a potting table could follow his lot line exactly. The 9-by-7-by-3-foot structure not only fits snugly, it has storybook character to spare. Constructed of 2x4s and half-inch interlocking pressure-treated panels, the entire unit is screwed together to make it easy to relocate, if need be. Alan dove in without as much as a measured drawing. "I really just winged it and had it formed in 2 hours," he says. "From there, it came together easily and quickly." With a budget of about \$2,000, this project has proved to be a sound investment. Alan now builds custom backyard escapes for other lucky gardeners.



BEFORE With neighbors also on the property to look a shade. Alan had to make the oblique angle of the corner work. **AFTER** Starwood's sub-advised fix. The outbuilding provides ample storage and serves as a eye-catching focal point in the yard.



*We moved and rebuilt our neighbor's garage on a \$2,000 budget. It makes a great workshop space and it's a joy to use. How perfectly it fits into our lifestyle, you'll want to see.



It looked like a townhouse but with a few bundles of cedar shingles, new trim and paint, plus a D's door and shutters, but shed new offers beautiful useful storage.



"We each wanted different things from the shed, so when we renovated it we split the interior into two sections. His books live on the back. The front is where the grandkids play."

^aPhenyl acetylenide-oxide base.

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Look what you found!

From a homemade mousetrap to a fading Civil War tintype, the oddities readers have discovered in and around their homes surprised even us. BY KIRSTEN MORRIS-BOYD

PHOTO OPS

Steff and Jeff Condon
GRANDRAPIDS, MICHIGAN



The Condons bought their 1908 Tudor home last year. Even the redolent old cast-iron sinks had been stolen," Jeff says. But they loved the floor plan and the 60 dixed-light windows, so all the work, including tedious days spent scraping those painted shut windows, was worth it. Plus, some goodies had been left behind. When Steff took a crawler to the ceiling in the room above the garage, for instance, she discovered an unmarked pipe board box hidden between the rafters. Inside? Two glass bottles of what they presumed to be well-aged moonshine (Michigan enacted its own prohibition in 1916) and a trove of black-and-white photos and newspaper. "There's one of four guys drinking in the woods and another of them all pretending to pee outside!" Jeff says. "They're just being crazy buddies." Another find behind a closet wall: a 1934 copy of *The Case of the Curious Bride*. As for the suspected moonshine, it remains unopened. Apparently, Steff and Jeff aren't as crazy as the previous owners.



accidental
time
capsules

SOMETHING OF NOTE **David and Bonnie Good** BETHUNE, INDIANA



Late one night, while stripping layers of wallpaper from the living rooms of their 1911 Craftsman, David noticed writing underneath—and got so excited that he ran upstairs to wake Bonnie. Together they uncovered the original builder's note scrawled on the wall, with the names of the architect (Robert H. Hall), contractors (Niemeyer and Rockstroh), and even the plumber and decorator. "I added our family names at the bottom, then preserved the note under spray lacquer and conservation glass," Bonnie says. "It's a daily reminder of the care that went into creating our home."



A STITCH IN TIME

Ginny and David Horn FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE



For a couple of years before they renovated their 1930 shotgun cottage, it was used for storage and filled with dusty items of yesteryear. "Misc. jam, Maaco oil, and a lot of garbage, honestly!" David says. "I started hauling all the trash out to the curb, including one lanky-looking Le-Zi-Day. When it tipped over, there was an old quilt under the worn-out cushion—probably meant to add a bit of padding." It turned out to be not just any old coverlet: It was a bedded friendship quilt with the names of many local citizens stitched in. Upon closer inspection, David spotted the names of his relatives in one of the triangles, including a few of his grandmother's siblings, who were an early act at the Grand Ole Opry. Because the quilt holds so many regional names, the Horns have thought about donating it to the local historical society so that everyone can enjoy it—and to help ensure that it never again winds up as a cushion.

PIPE DOWN

Terry McBride HARRISBURG, MISSOURI



When Terry was replacing broken cedar siding attached with square handmade nails at the bottom of his farmhouse kitchen's exterior wall, he unearthed a old clay pipe bowl and a red stem. The carpenter had to have dropped it when making the horizontal tongue-and-groove pine boards for the exterior walls. He says Terry knows the kitchen was added in 1952, so he dates the pipe to that time, too. "Though common in the 20th century, an intact one is a rare find today. We're just glad it wasn't lit when it fell—or the whole story might have gone up in smoke."



SHOO, FIRE, SHOO!

Susan Hollenbeck
ELCAON, CALIFORNIA



California is prone to brush fires, but Susan doesn't worry. Years ago she found a talisman posted in the attic of an 1800s owner's cabin deep in the woods of Big Sur's Los Padres National Forest, where she was a caretaker. It was a piece of withering, yellowed paper with two words block-printed by hand that read the same forward, backward, up, and down: Known as the Sator Square, this Latin palindrome has been used to ward off evil since the Roman Empire. "It was supposed to keep the house from burning, and it must do the trick," she says, "because in 1970, a forest fire came right up to the cabin on three sides, and never burned the structure." In every house she's lived in since, she writes out the same square and hangs it in a closet. "I still haven't had a fire—and I live in Southern California!" she says. "People might think it's kind of witchy, but it seems to work."

Easy, Elegant DIY Decor

With a little imagination, and Minwax stains and finishes, you can transform flea-market finds and unfinished wood pieces into personal treasures. For more inspired ideas and tips on how to achieve the rich finishes shown here, visit minwax.com/pinterest

Bedroom Cubbies 
Arrange three wooden bed
game modules vertically
along your wall and lay
another in front across
the floor. Top it off with a
cushion for a comfortable
shoe changing station.



Wangling 
Photo Gallery
String colorful
burlap family
pictures from a
curtain rail for a
dramatic gallery
mix-display.



Bookcase Turned Into Breakfast 
Add diagonal supports to an unfinished wood
bookcase and you've got a dining room
breakfast nook.



Sweet (Over)head 
Storage
Place three shelving
units in a U shape on
the floor, and add a
piece of plywood on
top for a bed frame
and much needed
storage solution.



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"TOH came to my rescue"

A longtime fan gets her dream remodel, as the crew resuscitates her Greek Revival. PHOTOGRAPHY: ANTHONY TULLO



Angela Dangle
Boston
"I'm so excited to live in an adult house!"

WHEN PEOPLE LEARN that the guys from *The Old House TV* are renovating my 1850 brick rowhouse, in Boston's Charlesown neighborhood, the first thing they ask is what's like behind the scenes. I laugh and shake of the first anecdote near the whole crew: "Tom, Norm, and the production team were heading over and I was still in an important conference call when I stepped into the kitchen—and right into a big pool of water. The cookware in the freezer door had sprung a leak. I started shoving snow its under the fridge, but when they soaked through, I broke into the conversation and explained what was going on. Someone reminded me to turn the drain valve, which I finally found in the basement. I finished shoveling up just as Tom stepped through the front door. Phew!"



COZY QUARTERS

ABOVE: Built in 1850, the brick rowhouse sits on Bunker Hill in Boston's oldest neighborhood. LEFT: The TOH TV crew will work with architect Sally DeLeon to modernize the house's 5,500 square feet of space. FAR LEFT: Homeowner Angela Dangle saved for nine years for her renovation.

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the 50th
season
with us!



UPGRADING THE OLD

(1) Keeping the marble mantel in the second-floor living room will be retrofitted with a high-efficiency gas insert. (2) A collapsed shower head rendered the guest bath unusable. It will be replaced and outfitted with a shower.



Fighting floods wasn't what I had in mind when I bought my house 16 years ago. I was drawn to period details, like the painted-pine floors, Greek Revival moldings, and marble mantel. But the yard, at more than 1,000 square feet—massive for a city lot—is what really spoke to me, and to my two pups, Lola and Pirana. Just about everything else felt like it was held together with chewing gum and duct tape. So many things had broken over time that I began to joke that my house was conspiring against me. The second-floor bath sprang a leak just after my parents had moved into the adjacent guest room for a spell. The heat went out the coldest week of winter to boot.

I kept trying to patch little problems that amounted to squirrel away savings as I planned my dream remodel. I knew it would include a modern bath on every floor and a cozy master suite that would make coming home every night feel like checking into a swanky hotel after a long day of travel. I was already talking to other contractors when I applied to TOH TV on a whim. I'd been a fan since watching the remodel of another house in Charleston years ago, I remember being so impressed at how the crew carefully removed all the plasterwork there.

I was amazed the following week when the production called, asking to tour the house. I spent the entire weekend doing that special kind of deep cleaning you do only when someone really important is coming over. It was an obsession that the crew wouldn't like my place or that they'd question why I wanted to spend 4 feet for a



PRESERVING THE PAST

(3) TOH TV general contractor Tom Glue and host Kevin O'Connell remove bricks one by one to be used later for the kitchen bumpout at Charleston's Stone 15. (4) Crews lay in footage for this shower. (5) Team takes a break during a day of demolition.



MORE ON CHARLESTOWN

For photos, a production and all else for the season 10 episode 2, search a page with the hashtag #TOH TV or go to thissheds.com/1002024



ALL OPENED UP

(3) The TOH TV crew and production team survey the first floor after removing the wall separating the kitchen and the formal dining room. (4) With jacks and struts beams supporting the upper floors, Tom and Kevin demolish the back wall on the first floor.



kitchen bumpout behind my 12-foot-wide rowhouse.

Contrary to all my fears, Tom and Nora totally understood how important my yard was to me and thought my shallow bumpout idea would work well. They also came up with the idea of salvaging the bricks we'd remove from the back of my house to build the small addition and suggested bonding on an abandoned chimney in the kitchen to create space. After that meeting, Tom even offered to stay and fix my leaky fridge.

I was over the moon when my house was selected. I'm living in a suburb small during the remodel, but I come by often to see the progress. You can imagine how shocked I was when I arrived one day to find that the crane back of my house was moving, to make way for the bumpout. It's amazing to stand in your living room and find a brace blowing in from your backyard. But when I saw Tom emerge from the pile of rubble and, amidst all the chaos, start to calmly pick out individual bricks to reuse, the same way most people pick out apples at the supermarket, I knew I was in good hands. And, as I ran around the crew, they saved my house better they even got to work. If I hadn't been home to meet them for this walk-through, the fridge flood could have ruined everything. ■



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Covet thy neighbor's fieldstones



Rita Seftary
SEAFORD, DELAWARE
"I pulled up and removed all the fieldstones from a

wall surrounding a friend's very large, very unwanted planter bed to use in building my new house. So far, for all my sweat and equity—I calculated that I hauled over 10,000 pounds of stone—(I use a five-pk. bag) my backyard and stone-covered columns and steps on the front of my home (I did the five-pk. but masons did the stonework on the house. I know my limitations.) I still have some left, so I think I might start work on a fieldstone path.

What Rita Saved: \$1,000

Let your flag fly (for free)



Jill Blakeslee
BOAZ, ALABAMA

"I used an old croquet mallet as a flag pole on my porch. It works

great because the mallet head keeps our University of Alabama flag from slipping off the end."

What Jill Saved: \$8.99

Presto-change frames



Cheryl Fieseler
HOEN SPRINGS, PENNSYLVANIA

"I wanted a unique way to display family pictures as well as artwork from my grandchild. I took an old multi-pane window frame without the



Doggone clever pet door

Susan Richards SANDY SPRINGS, GEORGIA

"Instead of buying an expensive dog door, I bought an inexpensive screen door with two small screened panels at the bottom. I removed the screen from the bottom panels and repurposed a piece of heavy vinyl to make flaps to cover the holes. Now I have a double dog door for my Australian shepherd and my yellow Lab. It's really hard to watch them shoot out the door at the same time!" **What Susan Saved: \$124**



Rock 'n' roll end table

Jennie Meyer MOBILE, JAY, PENNSYLVANIA

There was this big ugly black box in my living room called a subwoofer that my husband just couldn't part with. So I took an old end table of his, chopped the legs off, and set the top right on the subwoofer, which made a perfect base. My new end table looks like one piece, it didn't cost me anything, and my husband loves it because he gets to keep his subwoofer. It's gotta be from the '80s! **What Jennie Saved:** \$330

glass and a rusty piece of sheet metal, both found in our attic. I cut the metal to fit behind the frame and attached it to create a divided magnetic board. I made sure to sand all rough edges, sealed it, and put felt pads on the back to keep it from scratching the wall. Now I can display and change pictures regularly with fun, inexpensive magnets in individual frames! **What Cheryl Saved:** \$16.99

Groove-y cabinet doors

Trent Taberner COLEMAN, MISSOURI

I had boring old flat-panel kitchen cabinets. I made a jig and used a router to make a V-shaped groove about 2 1/2 inches

from the panels' outside edges. Combined with new hardware and white cabinet paint, they now resemble paneled doors at a fraction of the cost! **What Trent Saved:** About \$900

Couch-surfing contractor

Joey for Dave CARLEVILLE, MINNESOTA

We used Register Bags and had Waste Management pick them up. We finished stages of our demolition. Otherwise our driveway would have been occupied by a large dumpster for a much higher cost. 30 months at \$100 to \$150 a week. Oh, and my husband and I have a friend who's a pack-of-88 trades, and he lived with us for free in exchange for

all the help. After we finished, he moved back in with his mom—to help her replace her windows!

What Jennifer Saved: \$5,075 on trash pickup plus many thousands in labor costs

Formica fix-up

Rebecca Gayles LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

"I really wanted concrete counters but making the molds sounded very involved and they would still cost over \$500. I kept thinking: There's got to be one way to get the look. I found a photo of a product called concrete feather finish, and I knew I'd seen it before—in my garage! My husband works for a flooring company. I ran around asked him how could we use it on our countertops, and he said: 'Yeah, that would totally work. It bonds to anything.' So we did three coats, sanded each one, and then sealed the counters. They've held up really well—even with three boys!" **What Rebecca Saved:** \$450

Savvy salvage

Bob Archibolt SEASIDE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

"I found a discarded cedar chair near a dumpster, and all it really needed was a new paint job. I sanded off the old white and bought a few cans of brilliant white spray paint, and now it looks 100 percent better. Keeping with the cheap budget, I wasn't about to buy a cushion. They're too expensive! So I waited until the pet-bed cushions went on sale and bought a brightly colored one for \$6, but it fits the chair perfectly. It's comfortable, too!" **What Bob Saved:** \$389.50

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Cooking up a new look

Judy Myers VILLARIA, GEORGIA

I had some disposable aluminum cookie sheets from the party store, and it dawned on me that they would make great faux tin tiles. I cut squares from the cookie sheets, embossed a pattern, primed them, and finished them with acrylic metallic paint. I used them to create a backsplash, but they would make an awesome-looking ceiling. That's a lot of embossing, though! **What Judy Saved:** \$118

To catch a leak

Ruby Bergetts STOUCHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

"Our home is more than 100 years old, and the balcony above the kitchen is constantly leaking. Instead of replacing and sealing the floor of the balcony, we took a rubber peel liner and laid it in there. Of course, we made sure it goes up the sides of the balcony. Presto—nothing has leaked since! **What Ruby Saved:** At least \$680

Colorful stales

Janet Abiff KOLUN, WISCONSIN
"After I finished my basement, I decided I wanted a carpet runner for the stairs, but I didn't want to spend a lot of money. So I asked my furniture company if they had any of stock samples in the back, which I got for free. I chose alternate colors and styles and simply tacked them down with carpet tacks. The result is colorful and comfortable stairs. **What Janet Saved:** \$259

Price-match score

Roberta Farber PLANT CITY, FLORIDA
"While researching new tile for my living room and dining room, I found what I wanted

advertised for \$2.98 per tile at a nearby home center. I live within a 30-mile radius of two different locations of the same chain and am aware that they run different specials. I checked the price of the same tile at the second store and their close-out sale price was 39 cents per tile—but they only had 13 pieces left. So I called the store manager of the first location and asked if he was willing to honor the company's price-matching policy. He was! And I was able to purchase \$814 worth of tile for \$97.85 to cover 525 square feet. Then I installed it myself!"

What Roberta Saved: \$756.35

Or, ask for free stuff

Rae Anderson BOCA RATON, FLORIDA
"Get in touch with a property manager or an interior

designer—they are always dealing with people who are moving out or changing their furnishings. They will let you know ASAP if someone is getting rid of expensive sofas, cabinets, shelving units, TVs, etcetera. How reliable is this method? Well, I have my entire house full of free furniture that I paid nothing for! The only thing you may need if you're lucky is a truck or a moving company for that 90-inch TV or the three-piece black leather cabinet set. Good luck! **What Rae Saved:** \$90,000+

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You love this rustic touch

We asked TOH fans about sliding barn doors and got a flood of questions. Here's our answer BY AL VAVILICK • PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN BRIDGES

How to
build
a sliding
barn door



COST \$375

TIME Three to four two days

DIFFICULTY Easy Fitting the
pallet boards requires some
sanding, but the technique is a cinch



Deborah Beck

in the country. www.inthecountry.com
We want to install a sliding door.
How do we do it?

MORE THAN 1,000 OF YOU, including reader Deborah Beck, wanted to know the best way to tackle this project. It's easy to see why: Hanging a door on a track means you don't have to rip open and refinish a wall for a pocket door. Plus, mounting hardware is available in all manner of

styles and budgets, and the door options are limitless—from salvaged finds to custom! DIY creations like this one, a mix of pallet wood and common lumber. Follow along for the how-to from TOH senior technical editor Mark Powers and to see a gallery of readers' own sliding-barn-door projects.

Track and rollers:
Minipa Sliding Door
Hardware Kit, \$270;
minipahardware.com

Finished dimensions:
360/240 x 240/240 x 240/240

Printed at the request of
the National Bureau of Standards

laser measuring
millor base
bar clamps
drill/drivers
speed clamps
straightedge
combination square
pneumatic roller
and more to see

- 1x 6-grip Gel**
stretcher footed
for the back
- 1x 3-trapping Gel**
one 3' footer for
blocking
- 1x 6-pipe Gel** one
6' footer for the
mounting board
- 1x 6-grip Gel** one
6' footer and two
6' footers for the
flier strips
- gaffer's boards**
3/4" x 6" x 10' about
40 pieces
- 1x 11 rough common**
western red cedar
2x12 (or 3x12)

- caulk gun
- packet hole jig kit
- 1/4-inch drill bit
- cotton rag
- small paintbrush
- shod binder
- 3/4-inch drill bit
- 1/4-inch socket
- wrench
- 2-foot level

endlessG faster to make the face frame
1 1/4" inch-dia. screws
18-gauge 24"
inch leads on the
pneumatic roller
24" inch-pocket hole
screws
3-inch dia. screws
panel construction
adhesive-Gel-Tac
3000
wood glue
putty
100-grit sandpaper
latex paint
door handle

**Leafy roughs common
western red-jack**
Dad & me at 80 Franklin

endlessG faster to make the face frame
1 1/4" inch-dia. screws
18-gauge 24"
inch leads on the
pneumatic roller
24" inch-pocket hole
screws
3-inch deck screws
panel construction
adhesive Gel-Tite
Solut.
wood glue
pauls were
100-grit sandpaper
latex paint
door handle

1 MAKE THE BACK

11 Assemble the boards. For your 70-inch wide opening, saw 2x6s spanning the opening perfectly over the joists to support the pine boards to width. Measure from the floor to the top of the door casing, then cut the boards 1/8 inch shorter on either side. Gauge the boards inside, side by side, the blocks along the outside edges, and use long bar clamps to cinch them together. Square-up the assembly with longer strapping, at the top and bottom edges. Screw the blocks in, and nailing in place; and remove the clamps.

12 Add the strings. Use a gable saw to cut the 1x5 floor strings according to the cut list. Add glue and use the top rail flush along the top of the boards, adhere the upper string below it flush to the outside edges, and the middle rail below that. Add the lower string and seal, leaving all three channels for the floor gable that contains the door. Drive a 2x6 cross brace across the boards with 3x6s side each 2x6 joist.

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^aFlow ratings were based on model selected. Points of operation and geographical location. Flow rates were based on 20–60°C water with a 1.58 m³/s pump.



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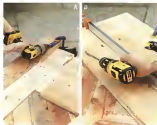
2 INSTALL THE PATTERN

A | Cut the chevrons. Use a straightedge to mark a centerline down the door's two end panels. Set the miter saw to 45 degrees and cut one end off each panel board. Starting at the top rail, butt the mitered ends of two pieces of similar thickness and color together at the centerline, forming an arrow. Use a combination square to mark the boards about 1/8-inch short of where they overlap the stile, as shown. Miter the pieces to length. Then dry fit them. Repeat, one chevron at a time.

B | Cut the corners. For the beards that let the corners use the combination square to mark where the panel overlaps the stile, miter the rail. Cut the two angles on the miter saw, as shown. After installing the longer pieces, fit the rest of the pattern with scraps, cut to fit.

C | Install the pattern. With the chevrons dry fit the battens, lift out one set of boards at a time, apply panel adhesive to the undersides, and press them back in place. Using a pneumatic nailer, tack the boards in place with 1 1/2-inch brads, one near each corner of each board. Repeat the process, adhering and nailing each pair of boards as you work down battens.

TIP For the strongest bond, spread glue on both edges of the joint and drill the pocket holes in the rail so that the screw grains the stile's edge grain.



3 MAKE THE FACE FRAME

A | Drill pocket holes. At the miter saw, cut the stile according to the cut list. Arrange the pieces rough face down covering the filler strips. Clamp a pocket hole up at the end of a rail, even with one edge, and use the bit to drill a hole. Repeat the gauging the other edge and repeat. Drill two pocket holes at each end of the upper and middle rails, as shown, and twice at each end of the water butt rail.

B | Build the frame. Apply wood glue to the ends of the rail, the adjoining edge of the mitered stile, then clamp the frame together. Drive the screws provided with the kit into the edges of the stile at each pocket hole, as shown. Remove the bar clamps.

This Old House blueprint

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This Old House
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4 FINISH THE DOOR

A) Attach the door frame. Gently remove the face frame and set it aside. Apply pencil reference in a square pattern along the filler strips. Bring the frame back to the table and smooth a rough side up, leaving the filler strip in place, as shown, and glue it along all four edges. Fasten down with 1½-inch brads every 8 inches or so.

B) Rub on the finish. Lightly sand the entire door with 100-grit paper to knock down any splinters. Use a cotton rag to rub a liberal amount of paste wax into the wood.

C) Attach the rollers. Center the rolling hardware on the width of the door stile. It may help to remove the wheels first. Mark the screw locations, drill pilot holes into the stile-stap edge with a ¼-inch bit, then screw the hardware in place, as shown. Replace the wheels and slip the track into their grooves. Measure between the door and the track to determine how high above the casing to mount it—½ inch for this hardware.



5 HANG THE DOOR

A) Attach the mounting board. At the miter saw, cut a length of 2x4 equal to the length of the track. We painted ours to match the wall. Use a stud finder to locate the framing and mark locations above the head casing. Level the mounting board above the casing and drill pilot holes through it and into each stud with a ¼-inch bit. Secure it with 3-inch deck screws.

B) Install the track. Measure ¼ inch above the casing and mark the spot on the mounting board. Hold the track flat against the board, with its bottom edge at the mark. Using a 2-foot level, check that it is level, then mark each lag-bolt location on the board. Set the track aside and drill ½-inch pilot holes at each mark. Thread a lag screw through one hole and cut it off and tighten it—rest all the way—using a ¼-inch socket wrench. Repeat the rest of the lags in place, then go back and snug them all up.

C) Hold the door on. Install a cleat at one end. With a helper, hoist the door into the track and slide it to the stop. Install the silver stop. Position the L-shaped floor guide so that it supports the door within its own unstaked positions. Mark the screw locations, drill pilot holes, and secure the guide to the floor with the included screws. Position the door handle on the centerline of the stile, drill ¼-inch pilot holes, and secure it with the included hardware.



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A story behind every door

Three readers take three different approaches to closing off a room while adding architectural charm.



Upcycled French doors

My husband, Matt, and I are big on repurposing as many original elements of our 100-year-old home as we can. We saved these French doors during our renovation and hung them between the kitchen and the dining room, letting the sunshine flow through.

—**Shirley Westlake**
SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA



Repurposed panel door

Our kitchen was very shiny and white, and I thought it could use some patina. We salvaged a panel door and brought it with us from Rhode Island; then got all the hardware I need to make it look for \$200 from a ranch-supply store here in Billings. Now that it retains a little of the New England history.

—**Joanne Kutz Voecker**
BILLINGS, MONTANA



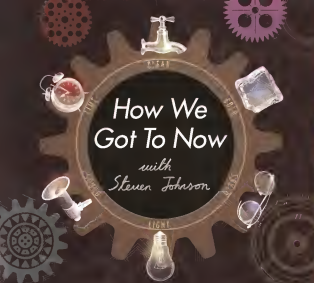
Classic X-shape

We felt that a more rustic style of barn door would work the best with the rest of our old house. I had cut boards recycled from my father's barnyard. I got the basic shape I wanted. Then I just cut them to size, raised it all together, stained and sealed the wood, and hung it from a track I found on Etsy.

—**Becky Peterson**
LAUREL, MARYLAND



ABOVE: The exterior inside the original exterior, but the shutters, copper gutters, and their cement splayboards are all new. **RIGHT:** The 1800s farmhouse has been moved and set on a new foundation. **OPPOSITE:** Tom and Becky Peterson and son Taylor, 18, gather in the new kitchen, the first room that was made livable during a whole-house gut redo that stretched to 12 years. "Every day brought a new miracle," says Becky.



How We Got To Now

with
Steven Johnson

THE HISTORY AND POWER OF GREAT IDEAS

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How did one of your fellow readers earn our awe—and a \$5,000 prize? Well, first he had to “retire” so he could work on the house full-time. Nice job!

BY TOM PETERSON • PHOTOGRAPHS BY WENDELL T. WEBER
STYLING BY MARIELLEN MELKER • PRODUCED BY COLETTE SCANLON





Before switching gears,

my wife, Becky, and I were both in pretty high octane jobs and beginning to think one of us should be doing something different. We barely saw each other, and I'd get home most nights after our son, Taylor, was in bed. Something had to give. In the end, I decided to make a change. I quit my job solving problems at a private bank to work full-time fixing up a house.

We were already looking for a five-upper near where we were living, in New Jersey, when I passed this wreck of a farmhouse in the town of Branchburg. An old mill barn sat right behind it—perfect for a dream workshop. I said to myself, “Wow, now there’s a project!”

The place was on a cul-de-sac surrounded by new houses. It had been empty for two years, and at one point had been at risk of being razed. But it was a local landmark, and the neighbors wouldn't have it. Ultimately, the developer moved the house and the barn to a corner lot and plunked them onto brand-new foundations.

The house was unusual, nothing like the box-shaped McMansions you see everywhere. I liked the front porch and could imagine how one in back would be even sweeter. The place was crying out with potential.

At this point I was officially retired—and getting ready to work harder than I ever imagined.

I had a million plans for the house, but before we signed on the dotted line, I checked in with the historic preservation commission. I'd heard horror stories about renovations screwing up a built because a roof or a paint color wasn't acceptable. Local officials came by for a walk-through, and they not only threw support behind my plans but also gave me the best tip of all time: Be careful what you throw out. (See “Prize Finds,” page 73.)

Soon we were in a rental nearby, and our household had a new routine.



before

TOP LEFT: Furniture-inspired cabinets painted a sunny yellow and a farmhouse sink make the home a past INSET: The old picky kitchen. See *Shores' Fascist Main Range* on page 73.



ABOVE: “The first time I saw the kitchen I fell in love,” says Tom. Also made the eating nook is peeling, enamel- and pine-topped table. **LEFT:** The walk is steep from the granite-topped island. **Plant:** Benjamin Moore’s Sun Dazzle Yellow (temporarily sold). **Floor tile:** Daltile. **Also photographed:** GC.



SHOP THIS STYLE
Finding furnishings similar to those used in this house near this page in the *Shores* app is as easy as 1-800-555-5555.

FLOOR PLANS

The 3,020-square-foot house was gutted and largely refinished and rebuilt with new joists, support columns, engineered beams, and a more open plan, including a large kitchen and guest suite downstairs and an L-shaped master suite, just two other bedrooms and a second full bath upstairs. The porch, wraparound deck, roof, siding, windows, windows, exterior trim, landscaping, and infrastructure, including driveway and fireplace work, are also new.

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



Becky would jump on the 6 A.M. bus to New York, and I'd drive Taylor, then 6, to school. I hadn't had a chance to do that before, and I had no idea how much it would mean to me over the years to come. Let's just say I've never missed a football game.

My first encounter with a table saw dates back 20 years, when I was bitten by the famous making bug. From there, my passion widened to woodwork and built-ins. I couldn't wait to finish this house with linings, wainscoting, and all the rest.

For first I had to focus on making sure the place didn't collapse. The floors weren't level, and they sagged in spots. Termites had compromised the old beams. Roofs poured in through one wall. The weight of the roof was pushing out the walls, and we'd need new joists and support columns.

One thing I've learned through life is that there's a solution to every problem—you can't let yourself be overwhelmed. Two general contractors helped with demolition and structural repairs. It took about six months and 15 dumpster loads just to get the place. The kitchen joists were so old, they still had bark, and all the siding

BELOW The dining room's original fireplace came with this unusual all-berlinite front painted to all-ones overline—just do this. First inside it a working fireplace and then finished the walls.



was nailed right to the studs. No insulation! All the plumbing and wiring, even the furnace, had to go. With the floors opened up, the two chimneys at the corner stood firm; we used one as a gauge to see very slowly jacked up sections and then the support columns in the basement to make the first floor level.

We'd knock off at sundown just hoping this thing would still be standing in the morning. I had a number of deep-freeze nights, but the challenge was like a drag.

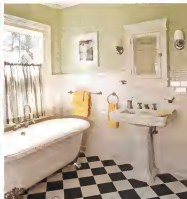
Becky and I love old houses but we wanted all the conveniences—central air, a whole-house sound system, even a central vac. A local architect put our plans in paper so I could get permits, and I have to tip my hat to the folks at the building department—they were great, every step of the way. We reframed walls and installed joists 12 inches on center because I wanted a house that was stouter than a tank. To get a bag, open latches, we took down walls, which meant adding a 1,100-pound beam overhead to support the second floor.

To gain space downstairs, we moved the basement



PRIZE INSIDE

The Polos now were about to fly, with original hardware back in place. To win, they'd a house. It didn't go for \$100,000 that they'd been looking for. Instead, when he got around to selling off a lot of his top items, he made a really quick decision. It's a lot, he got a quick call back. To make sure a statement, the estimate was \$250,000 to \$300,000. They made a date to be there who'll be a big prize in a big prize. That little house turned out to be a house in the city. It sold for \$330,000—or \$100,000 more than they paid for the house.



TOP LEFT The family room's original coffee table. The piece shown in the far corner is a new one. To the right, up above, the built-in bathtub is only a few feet old. **LEFT** The original mahogany balustrade and newel post were taken apart, stripped, and reassembled.



WELCOME TO MY WORKSHOP

If I was going to work on the house full time and make every linear foot of casing, trim, rough, seven lumber, I would need a better place for my tools than a shed. Before we even moved in, I designed a 700-square-foot wrap-around addition back of our two-car barn. It has plenty of wall space for hanging tools and space for lumber and equipment. Some of the tools date as far back as Becky and I were first married, and I decided to finish myself doing making a place like one Norm built at New Yankee Workshop. At the heart of it is an industrial-grade SCM Master combi machine with five motions and a 48-in. sliding table. I cut deep a

sheet of plywood to the table and slide it across the block for a dead straight cut. It also has a planer, jointer, shaper, and mortiser, so I can make all my own stock and build for resale. Standing right next to it is a Wilkins & Huesky molder with custom knives that made that slatted run to the house. In the end of the living room, parking, and built straight here. All my power I had three giant stacks of rough lumber—the place was jammed with wood. Even if I could have found the ideal problem, there was no space. Finally, I built a 10-mach rather build my own machine, cabinets and bookshelves. More important than the money is the satisfaction of getting it right.

Naturally, the type of work takes its toll—I lost months to a rotator cuff injury and another year went toward a double knee replacement. But I couldn't wait to get back to the workshop and to my passion. We still have that place by the way Becky put it in near the kitchen, where we can see it every day. —T.F.



ABOVE: The upstairs hall is now lined with handmade sliding and decorative—Tim says made the chair. The floor is new quarter-sawn white oak. **RIGHT:** The master bath evokes the garden through a row of light-filled windows. Tim: Gothic windows, Pella



man. Upstairs, we moved openings to improve the flow and raised the roof so that you don't have to duck to get into Taylor's bedroom.

There was one near disaster, after I took apart the main staircase's mahogany balustrade to have it resung. Each baluster had a hand-cut pin to dovetail into a tread, so I numbered them and took them out. To my horror, the smallest one snapped off with the pin, and I thought I'd never know out which baluster went where! But as I like to say, there's a solution to every problem. Through and over, I figured it out.

Once various pros had taken care of the glazing, wiring, heating, and cooling, chimney work, and drywalling, I had a big empty box. That was what I'd been waiting for—to choose to down up all the details inside and out, from interior trim to shatter caps.

I replicated the original savings in my shop, installed waterproofing in the main hall, and built a lot of furniture and cabinetry. I even developed a system for installing bookcases. Start with 5-inch-high plywood boxes, and if you get that level, what's on top will be too.

Finally, I reached the last thing, the downstairs bath, the new with a new halter—Taylor. In the case it's taken to finish this house he's named TB and named collage.

No matter what he chooses to do in life, I hope he is as happy as I have been working on this house. Becky agrees. We've already talked about what we'd do if life presented us with another falling-down house. She'd keep her day job, and I'd head off to my workshop. ■



T&B: Tim and Becky's master bedroom offered passageways to create an open suite with a walk-in closet and a bathroom. **INSET:** The old layout was awkward, with a former decorative fireplace between two doorways. (Tim: Benjamin Moore's Georgian Green color)

(ONE
ROOM)

Wonders

THREE YEARS FOR
AMERICA'S BEST REMODEL



Thousands of you sent in pictures of your perfected spaces, hoping to land in these pages. Among all your amazing redos, five reader remodels really won us over—and won the DIYers behind them \$1,000 apiece



(BEST ROOM) KITCHEN

Shannon Varley and BJ Miller
KNOXVILLE,
MARYLAND

WHAT THEY DID Camped out in an RV while turning their condemned farmhouse into a cozy home—complete with a charming new kitchen

HIS STORY BJ and I have been help by farmers for almost a decade, raising cows, chickens, pigs, and rabbits for ourselves and our two kids—and a lot of profit. We'd always wanted to own our own land, rather than rent, and we finally found something within our budget: a little 1900s farm house foreclosed on 25 acres. At last, we had our own farm, but since the place was condemned, we couldn't exactly move right in. So we pulled into the driveway in an RV and that's where all four of us lived for two years as we peeled away decades-old layers of sad remodeling.

Since we do a lot of our own butchering and food prep, creating a functional kitchen was important to us, but it also had to be inviting. The existing layout would work, but the walls were crumbling and the

ABOVE An over-the-island wine rack is the latest addition, which has allowed BJ to enjoy his "job table" (see the page) without the extra sink, storage, and table space that a farmhouse had. The single island is white-stained and is large enough to handle farm-to-table food prep.



BY D.C.



BATH

Brent Hovmann
Hovmann Interiors, LLC

WHAT HE DID Gutted a sadly outdated—carpeted—third-floor bath and created a boutique retreat for guests



HIS STORY A week after closing on our 1870 lakefront, my partner, Rich Ault, and I had sledgehammers in hand. Our goal: to renovate the place one room at a time. That was eight years ago. With full-time jobs, the overhaul took a little longer than we anticipated. Okay, a lot longer. And the last major project was the third-floor bath. Why did we wait so long to tackle this room? Quite frankly, I'm terrified.

ABOVE Family and friends helped repair the stone walls of kitchen in 1970s addition to the existing log home. The original pre-existing window remains.

cabinets were flimsy, so we tore those out. When we did, we found beautiful natural stone that needed only some repointing. We ripped out the floors, too, and BJ laid new pine planks, stained to look like they're original. We purchased cabinets and installed all new appliances, most of which we were lucky enough to get for free from our cabinetmaker, who was doing their own remodel.

But we realized we were short on counter space and would need more room for food prep. A woodworker friend had a large island that had been custom-built for homeowners, who changed their minds, and we were able to buy it at a reduced rate. It fit just enough to hold a hog!

BJ hung open wood shelving, and an antique postal box to store wine. The added wood gave us room to help warm the room during chilly winters. Now it's somewhere we use all cozy up together and hang out. It's sure beats gathering around the fold-down Tanna table in the RV.



ABOVE After removing the old wallpaper (left), Brent's partner, Rich Ault, designed and installed board-and-batten paneling with picture ledges. In the shower, built-in tubs are laid on a running board pattern and a backboard design.



Yellow 1950s emerald-green wall-paper covered the walls (and ceiling, no less!) smelly brown-vinyl-to-wall carpeting of in-kind vintage-padded the floor, and a hideous vanity with a Formica counter had doffed the room. Although we did remove the carpet and floorboards entirely, while rewiring the house, not much else had been done. For years, we used the space for storage.

I'm a flight attendant and stay in a lot of hotels with nice baths, so I knew I wanted our guest bath to feel like a luxurious oasis. The first step was reconfiguring the cramped space. An exterior linen closet and a larger hall closet ate up a lot of real estate. We opened them up, incorporating the closet space into the bath, gaining valuable square footage. Next we tackled the walls. Shallow stud-bays—only about 2 inches deep—necessitated building out at the sink to hide the plumbing. Since we were already bumping out the wall, we brought it out far enough

PHOTO: TOP: © JEFFREY M. HARRIS; BOTTOM: © JEFFREY M. HARRIS; PHOTO: TOP: © JEFFREY M. HARRIS; BOTTOM: © JEFFREY M. HARRIS



to create niches for extra storage. The shower was in such bad shape that we just covered the rest of the walls with vertical board-and-batten and horizontal planks.

While the tub looks right at home in the space, it has actually lived all over the house. We bought it three years before we started the renovation, but we couldn't get the beast up the narrow staircase. It sat upside down in our living room (we didn't want to risk cracking it) before we moved it to the dining room, where it lived for a year. Good thing we weren't entertaining a lot! We

moved it to the third floor when we got around to rewiring the stairs, while the bathtub was removed.

Working with heavy male help on an upper floor of an old house is tough. I wish we'd had an elevator there are 32 steps from the basement to the third floor. We'd lug boxes of plumbing materials and forgotten some tool in the basement. But in the end, all the trips up and down the stairs were worth it. We have the guest bath of our dreams. Now I don't have to rely on hotel rooms for a spa-like getaway—I can just go upstairs.



ABOVE LEFT Quad pedestal sink keeps the space feeling open and airy. **TOP** Since nobody can see in to the third floor bath, the couple installed window treatments in place of glass-tinged shelves. **ABOVE** The floors of the downstairs originally housed vintage woodwork from Brent's grandfather. A horizontal plank wall conceals plumbing and adds towel storage.



WEST 100 CURB APPEAL

Tanya and Brian Taylor *Highland, Illinois*

WHAT THEY DID Meticulously restored their Italianate's facade by hand-milling cedar boards to mimic walls of elegant hand-cut stone.

HER STORY You know the saying about buying the worst house on the best street? That's what we did. We spotted this 1867 Italianate, a beauty left to decay for decades and made an offer. But when the owners countered, I got cold feet thinking about the ancient kitchen leaky roof and 18-plus windows that needed replacing. Brian said, "Tanya, this house has location

location! LOCATION!" Our house is in Oak Park, just outside Chicago, renowned for its period architecture.

After several years of minor renovations, Brian started work on the new porch, stripping the aluminum siding from the front of the house to reveal a layer of old, damaged clapboards. Under that, we were stunned to discover the real prize: the original 19th-century cypress siding, made to resemble a stone facade. The tongue-and-groove boards had been routed with bevels every 36 inches to look like a row of blocks. Then the siding was painted a natural color and textured



Before



After

TOP: New hand-milled cedar complements the Italianate style. Once an unloved rental (before), this house is a good home retained intact. Hidden under beamer layers was the original siding (during)



ABOVE: "This house was loved from night," says Tanya, shown with Brian and their daughter Rachel.

with sand. It is very convincing. We found the "stone" on just two sides of the house and decided to restore what was damaged and carry it around to the other sides. Brian said then, "Wait! For two years, the house sat exposed while we searched for a mill to re-create this material at a reasonable cost. Tired of the Tyvek wrap—and the drafts—I put my feet down and told Brian he'd have to figure out how to do it himself."

Though he's an architect, not a craftsman, Brian rose to the challenge. Each of the 100-plus cedar boards required five setups of tools and blades for a total of 12 passes to create the tongue, grooves, and bevels. The guests had been removed all along the corners, so he milled and installed those, too. There was, as he says, "sweat, tears, and plenty of blood" along the way.

We were thrilled to receive appreciation award from the village, but the real pleasure is knowing, after seven years of work, that our home is finally living up to its history.



THE BEST OF THE BEST To view a portrait of the finalists or all West 100 contest categories, scan this page with the iPaper app or go to chicagohouse.com/west100

WEST 100 DINING ROOM

Richard and Amy Burchfield
Port Royal, Pennsylvania

WHAT THEY DID Combined their living and dining rooms into one character-filled space.



HIS STORY When I asked Amy for her hand in marriage in 1994, I was a man of modest means. As a schoolteacher turned farmer, I told her I could offer her a diamond engagement ring or, if she'd rather, new carpeting for the 1760s farm-

house we were buying. I offered her a third option: too, a dairy cow for the 60-acre farm the house sits on—but she knew we'd get one anyway. She went for the carpeting.

Forty years, four children and two grandchildren later, we'd tired of the carpeting and our cramped living quarters. We couldn't squeeze our



Before

BELOW: Combining the existing living space (before) and dining room created space for a table that expands to seat 20.





above

ABOVE: Pulling down the ceiling revealed chestnut joists. **RIGHT:** New 54 grandpa Sam's turntable took charge of thinking the logs.

layers of flooring, we discovered wide plank chestnut floorboards. Tearing out the ceiling revealed chestnut joists and a massive, 30-inch-square center beam.

We thought it would be a shame to hide away the woodwork and masonry for another 200 years, so we scrubbed them and sprayed them with a pressure washer, sanded and sealed to protect the floors. My mother did the chinking between the logs, something she'd never attempted.

We finished the space with new lights and a farmhouse table large enough to host four generations of our family. And as for a dining room? Any finally got that too—back on our 25th anniversary.

family together in a single space. So we set out to combine the living room and dining room and restore some period charm.

Our kids helped us tear down the wall between the two rooms and pull back layers of paneled and plaster, exposing the original log walls as well as the stone and brick chimneys for the fireplaces in our basement. Beneath Amy's moss-green carpeting, hidden under three more

YARD

Terry and
Steve Metzler
ST. LOUIS

WHAT THEY DID
Transformed their 'average suburban backyard' into a bubbling wonderland

HER STORY Back in 1990, when Steve and I saw the backyard of the house we'd just bought, my first thought was, "Dustbowl!" But it was a steep, barren slope that funneled water straight toward the foundation, which was at her neighbor's or we decided a perfect landscaping opportunity. We planted trees to stabilize the hill and installed a modest 600-gallon pond near the back door and we're quite pleased with it all.

Until that is, we got garden envy after going on several of the Pond-O-Rama tours held in St. Louis each year and seeing all the elaborate water features. Figuring "Hey, we could do that ourselves," we decided to fully landscape our half-acre plot, creating a waterfall as the centerpiece. It would cascade from the high point of the slope, split into two streams, and feed a large pond-like death lake and, lo, ignorance was bliss!

It took us two years, working every available weekend, to complete the project. With the first bite of the



below



LEFT: The Metzlers split the stream just as it starts to run, creating a bed-island bed with a station clock as its focal point. They found several large flat stones to use with a pallet of river rock and used them as bridges. **OPPOSITE:** The hill was left alone but as mostly bare (above).

shovel, we'd bedrock. It required a pickaxe, hammer, jackhammer and ultimately a backhoe to carve out the hole for the 2,000-gallon pond. It took many more hours of shoveling to level the hillside for the waterfall and dig gravel beds for the streams. Using just a hand truck, Steve and I moved more than 60 tons of river rock uphill, two or three stones at a time, and fit them like a giant puzzle—with plenty of arguing along the way. It was miserable work and, to say the least, a happy day when we finally turned on the water.

While the water feature is the star, I'm proud of the gardens, too. We have four seasons of interest: thanks to 250 varieties of hosta, 60 varieties of daylily, 37 different Japanese maples and dozens of other perennials and shrubs.

We love our yard and can't believe we did this ourselves. Now it's our garden that we hot-tot on the Pond-O-Rama tour! ■



ABOVE: "Steve is the primary I'm the plant nut," says Terry. "I can't resist adding more flowers to the garden every spring!"

TOP RIGHT: River placement of stones and plants at the top of the hill creates the illusion that the waterfall is fed by a natural stream. **RIGHT:** A pump keeps the water rising at 4,000 gallons per hour, ensuring any chance of landscaping.





Hats off to you superheroes of the home. Whether saving a historic plantation from fauna gone wild or making a Christmas miracle with power tools, these honorees proved their mettle

BY NINA MALIKIN

THE "BRING IT ON HOME" AWARD

Kris Mansch
HAYS, KANSAS



Feeling lost after his 18-year-old son, Blake, died in a car wreck, Kris

sold the house and he and his boy had renovated as a team. "I was trying to run from this pain," he says. He used savings to travel from state to state, building bedrooms for strangers, until an urge called him back to Hays. Once there, he learned that the house directly across from the one he'd rebuilt with Blake was for sale. Empty for 40 years, the 2008 Craftsman (above) was so dilapidated that Kris was the only bidder. It proved to be the toughest project he ever took on—he still recalls the day he lugged fifty 12-foot pieces of drywall up three stories—but it healed his son. "I did feel Blake's spirit guiding me. Now I look at the house we did together and think, it's good to be home."



THE "GATHERS NO MOSS" AWARD

Sheryl Kandie Pulver
EDMOND, WASHINGTON

The first big challenge Sheryl tackled after successfully battling breast cancer was to finish the roof on her roof. She experimented with numerous options—including supervised apartment—before finding a plant sprayer with moss killer and scrambling up a ladder to reach the gully growth. "I felt triumphant," Sheryl says. "Lost my body back."



"To get to the bathroom during our reno, we'd walk a 20-foot wood plank across open joists—pretty scary at night!"

—John and Steve
PERRASSE, PENNSYLVANIA

THE "CREATURE FEATURE" AWARD

John Gay and Steve Ironbraker
EDENTON, NORTH CAROLINA



Athal Plantation, erected in 1836, was delivered vacant of people. Surrounded by swamps, the place was busy with snakes, bats, and bugs. "It was like a Stephen King story," Steve says. The spookiest part? The leaning in the walls. "We drilled a few holes and they started to move," John says. The geo turned out to be the work of radiata honeybees, whose colony ran 50 feet from basement to attic. Now required to its full agender, the snake has to be would make Scarlett tear up



THE "BOUNCE BACK" AWARD

Amanda Lebel and David Lebel
ASHFORD, CONNECTICUT



This father-daughter duo was set to remodel the dingy bathroom in Amanda's tag cabin. Then a sudden fall left David with a brain injury requiring three surgeries and major rehab. He needed to learn how to walk, talk, sit, do everything. Amanda says: "Yet within six months David was rising to go." "It was amazing to hear him speak his thought process aloud, figuring out how to wire switches or manipulate paper," says Amanda. "That's how I know he was all right."



THE "CORDLESS CHRISTMAS" AWARD

Darleen Young
RANDOLPH, MAINE

Unwilling to let a power outage spoil Christmas, Darleen used her cordless redneckening saw to build an overcoat of cardboard. Covered in foil and set on a skid-steer base, it belted the house. Next she chucked a mowing blade in her cordless drill to whizz her sweet potatoes. "Nothing's impossible if you stay calm," Darleen says.



THE "LONG HAUL" AWARD

Joe Lawlor Berger
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

If patience is a virtue, Joe will have a comfy spot in heaven: It took him 35 years to remodel the 1880s Stick Style home he bought in 1979. He started with no tools (or skills) but ample perseverance. This timeline shows his progress through the years.



23 READER

Tips

THAT SAVE
YOU TIME AND
MONEY

We asked. And you delivered. Once again, you've sent us scores of ingenious ways to save time, money, and aggravation using nothing more than the everyday stuff people have around the house. Here are the best—the most original—of the bunch

1. Ant repellent

Have an ant problem? Spread cinnamon across the path where they're entering the room. They'll avoid it like the plague.

—**Ron Gili**
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA



2. Finishing-nail remover

The easiest way to extract finishing nails embedded in old molding is to pull them through from the molding's back side, of course. But the usual tools—hammers, oil spaws, and rippers—all put sideways pressure on the wood, which can crack it.

That's why I use a pop rivet gun. Slip it over the point and kill (pull) the nail straight through the material.

—**Perry Munter**
MIDDLETON, WISCONSIN

3. Sock thistle killer

To get rid of these noxious weeds, spray their leaves or douse their roots with white vinegar. They don't come back.

—**Janet Rahn**, BARRY ELUNDG

4. Plastic-pipe wrench

Tightening those winged plastic nuts used on toilet seats is tough on fingers. I took a short length of 1-inch-diameter PVC pipe and used

a hacksaw to make four equally spaced notches, ¼ inch wide and ½ inch deep in one end. The notches fit over the wings, so all you have to do is twist the pipe to tighten (or loosen) the nuts.

—**Sybil Koblentz**
SUGAR CREEK, OHIO

5. Saw-blade storage

I protect and store my circular 10-inch saw blades in a neat stack of 5 gallon-bucket lids. To identify each blade and the last time it was sharpened, I write on each lid's edge with Magic Marker.

—**George Pelrier**
MENOMONEE, WISCONSIN



6. Instant aging tonic for wood

To make new pine boards look like old barnwood, put rusted nails in a jar of vinegar for a few days. When you brush on the solution, it turns the pine a lovely grayish color.

—**Kerry Lynn Pincus**
WILLIAMS, ARIZONA

7. Makeshift concrete forms

The instructions for installing a basketball backboard called for a cylindrical concrete footing. I made my own cradle form by lashing and snapping pieces of drywall at regular intervals, every inch or so, leaving the inside paper layer intact. In the hole, board I held the form in place as I dumped in the concrete.

—**Kevin McElaine**
MANCHESTER, MISSOURI

8. Revive old O-rings

I had a hard time finding the correct O-rings to fix a leaky faucet, so I rubbed a dab of silicone paste on the old, dried-out ones. It brought them back, good as new. Nemore leaks.

—**Arthur E. Spruce**
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA



9

Dorothy Thues
CONFER, COLORADO

HELP ON WHEELS

I couldn't carry the heavy plywood and MDF panels by myself from my garage workshop to the kitchen I was rebuilding, so I enlisted some help: my son's skateboard. It's also perfect for moving drywall.



13

Guy Parish
SLEEMAN, ARIZONA

SPLINTER-FREE GRIPS

My wheelbarrow handles were worn and full of splinters, so I covered them with discarded inner tubes from the bike shop. I dressed the ends of the handles with liquid electrical tape and secured the grips with regular electrical tape.

length and mount it level with the screw holes flat against the wall and the angled edge pointing up and out. Then cut a piece the same length and mount it on the picture with the angled part facing down. Just nest the picture cleat in the wall cleat. Easy, cheap, and secure.

—**Samuel Adelstein**
WARRENSBURG, MISSOURI

14. Varnish vanisher

If I get varnish on my hands, I'll rub on some petroleum jelly and then wipe them clean with a paper towel. The jelly takes the varnish right off.

—**Erin Calverley**
CORDS CREEK, KENTUCKY



15. Easy estimator

To estimate how many cubic yards of material you need to cover an area to a certain depth, you can use an online calculator or a physical one to divide 324 into the square footage, times the depth. But here's a simple way to do the calculation in your head that gets you close enough. Multiply the

square footage you want to cover by the depth (inches) of the coverage. Multiply the result by 3 and divide by 1,000. For example, to cover a 200-square-foot garden with 2 inches of topsoil: $200 \times 2 = 400$; $400 \times 3 = 1,200$; $1,200 / 1,000 = 1.2$ cubic yards.

—**Joe Delbeck**
BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON



16. Wags away

To get rid of yellow jackets in his attic—without handling chemicals or getting stung—connect your wet/dry vac to enough sections of PVC pipe to reach the nest from the ground. Prop or hang the pipe a few inches from the nest entrance. Switch on the vac, and let it run. Every wasp coming or going gets sucked up and neatly laid to rest.

—**Joe Martin**, FAIRBANK, ALASKA



17. Cleaner for dishwashers

When the inside of my dishwasher gets dirty from minerals and soap scum, I put a scoop of Tostitos orange drink in the empty dishwasher and run it for a full cycle. When it's done, the marks disappear.

—**Joseph Silva**
WINTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

18. Handheld bit guide

I had to drill a hole through a round metal bar, but I couldn't keep the bit from wandering. So I drilled a small hole in a wood plug, then held it against the bar to steady the bit long enough to get the hole started.

—**Paul Martin**
TINLEY PARK, ILLINOIS

19. Mastic remover

Flipping out our old medium floor was easy, but the black mastic

underneath remained stuck to the wood floor no matter what adhesive remover we tried. Then our dog peed on it. As we cleaned up his mess, the glue came right off. So we bought a gallon of household ammonia and a spray bottle and followed the procedure. Spray the ammonia, let it sit, scrape off the goo. Repeat if necessary. All the mastic came off, and our refinished floors look beautiful.

—**Richard and Ronald Zyl**
THOMASVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

21. Two tapes stop dust

During demolition, when I need an enclosure to contain dust inside a house, I use the two-tape method to secure plastic drop cloths around door openings. First, place strips of painter's tape on the wall. Then stick the plastic sheets to those strips using duct tape. That way, there's no worry about the plastic coming loose or the duct tape lifting the paint or leaving sticky residue on the wall.

—**Robert Clark**
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA



22. Putty softener

To soften old hard plumber's putty or glazing compound, stick in a microwave for about 15 seconds. If it's in a metal can, take out a flunk and rub it on a paper towel.

—**Sam Miller**, ELGIN, ILLINOIS

20

Curtis White
CORONA, CALIFORNIA

PAM TO THE RESCUE

Before painting, I spray cooking oil on the roller frame so that the roller covers will slide off easily when I'm done.

23. Cheap way to scrub sanding belts

When sanding clogging my sanding belts, I get rid of it with a six-inch piece of old dry-garden hose. I clamp the sander to a bench and turn it on, then I rub the cut end of the hose against the moving belt. The sand just comes right off.

—**Steve Heller**
BENTLEY, MASSACHUSETTS



10. Plastic wrap stops paint

Grid Press in Seal plastic wrap is fantastic for protecting surfaces from paint drips and errant brushes and rollers because it sticks so well to itself and other surfaces. I've used it on the backs of toilet tanks, exposed pipes, and bathroom door covers. Sometime a few days later and it's as fuzzy as taping up sheets of masking paper. When I'm painting, I'm never without it.

—**Lisa Delbeck**
BRIE, PENNSYLVANIA

11. Hair dryer for hot glue

If you need to remove leftover globs of hot-melt glue stuck to a surface and don't want to risk gouging or burning it, apply up the globs with a hair dryer, set on high for 30 seconds. Then you can pop them off with a putty knife.

—**Barry Betzel**
ROMEVILLE, ILLINOIS

12. Ready-made French cleat

The crimped aluminum trim pieces for carpet edging—the kind you see at dress shops—make great French cleats for hanging pictures. Cut a

THIS OLD
HOUSE

Saved



Our back-page column is the place where many of you dream of finding your next home. The three families in this story have done just that, moving heaven and earth—and in one case, the house itself—for the chance to make that fantasy a reality. Here's how they polished up their diamonds in the rough

BY PAUL HOPE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
DEBORAH WHITLAW LLEWELLYN
STYLING BY THEA BEASLEY



Whether the target is a former's cottage, Scott Pluckhahn and Keith Crosby have been looking for a home to make a really good garden.

1 STORIED FARMSTEAD

Scott Pluckhahn and Keith Crosby LITHONIA, GEORGIA ISSUE/MAY 2012

"When I look back, we were really crazy to do this," jokes Scott Pluckhahn, fondly recalling the day he and partner Keith Crosby committed to buying and restoring the 1,200-square-foot Houseworthy farm house, just outside of Atlanta. The Georgians had been living in a cottage nearby when they first found the historic home, which

was for sale two years before it appeared in the magazine's Save This Old House column. "We were looking for something with an interesting history," says Scott. "We just loved that it had only been owned by one family. It looked like it was frozen in time. It was so rustic!" "Rustic" was a generous description of the place. The





LEFT: Original pine boards plank the walls, floor and ceiling in the living room. The space also notes what is believed to be the original wood mantel, which was likely stained black to conceal rot. **BELLOW:** A granite fireplace perfectly suits the restoration's kitchen and dining room. The stones were quarried near 150 years ago from nearby Knotts Mountain.

leaking roof, rotted siding, and collapsing porches might have sent many a buyer scurrying. But Scott and Keith saw past those problems to the original 1940s details, such as the intact pine paneling and the granite fireplace, and they loved the picturesque setting, which evoked a seven-acre gem.

Built by the Houseworth family, who farmed the plot and drew their water from a nearby creek (indoor plumbing didn't arrive until the 1980s), the house had barely escaped General Sherman's March to the Sea, which left much of the area ravaged. Learning it was slated to appear in the pages of *The Old House* really locked the couple a decision-making into high gear. "We knew it wouldn't belong before another reader swooped in and bought the place," recalls Scott.

Soon after, with the purchase complete, they got to work. "Lots of people would have covered up the dark paneling inside," says Keith. "But we have a deep appreciation for early American history, so we did everything to preserve the original integrity of the house." The couple opted to have a period-appropriate cedar-shake roof installed and replaced about half of the lap siding before painting the exterior. The front porch, enclosed during a 1980s renovation, was opened up and restored. Determined to preserve the southern yellow pine walls and ceilings, which miraculously had never



TOP LEFT: The kitchen features a freestanding venting and a side-look table to prevent damaging the wall paneling. **ABOVE LEFT AND TOP RIGHT:** Custom built from the garden hark back to the farmstead's early days, as do the hand-carved wooden shower pulls. The original owners would have had these in abundance and might have used them in lieu of fence hardware. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The master bedroom's color, our view windows are evocations of an actual original Scott and Keith favoring the renovation.



MORE UPDATES! Wonder what happened to when *Save The Old House* subscribers? To find out, scan this page with the Engage app or go to SaveTheHouse.com/Save



been painted. Scott and Keith set about hand-scrubbing the boards themselves and left them in their original state. "There were certainly things along the way," says Scott. "Like the downpour that came when a portion of the roof was still missing! Thankfully, Keith's home and managed to dry out a tarp and a stack of pipe to route the water out through a new by window."

As an aptitude for much of the renovation, the couple relied on a similar house from the period, which had been owned by the Atlanta History Center, not far from their home. The restoration was complete, the couple has since opened their home to the public, conducting tours of the house and surrounding land. "We see it as a chance to educate people on life in the South before the Civil War," says Keith. On one recent occasion, Houseworth's descendants stopped by after a family reunion to tour the home many of them remembered from childhood. "To know that the great-grandson of your home's first owner is standing in your living room, admiring the work you've done, is pretty incredible," says Scott. "It does feel much better than that."

BELOW: The handsome Stick Style house was cut into panels and trucked more than 170 miles from Bradford, Maine, to Deer Isle, before being rebuilt on a new lot. TOP RIGHT: Restored window bays were fitted with bench seating to create reading nooks throughout the house. BOTTOM RIGHT: The large kitchen occupies a replica of the 1920s addition that was left in rubble after a bad earthquake; after the house was rebuilt,



2 COASTAL RETREAT

Damon and Cindy Beyer

DEER ISLE, MAINE ISSUE: JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2000



"When I saw the house, I knew it could be my one shot at having the vacation house of my dreams," says Damon Beyer, a seemingly unlikely candidate for buying and moving a massive 5,600-square-foot Stick Style house from Maine to a road lot in Texas. Damon first got a glimpse of the place on the back page of *TDH* during a layover at the Phoenix airport while traveling on business. He tentatively called his wife, Cindy, who encouraged him to see the house for himself.

Some quick rearranging of his return flight allowed for a stopover in Maine, where he arranged to tour the house and meet with an architect and house mover. "It was a total mess, but I just loved it anyway," he says. The clock work was completely by the seat of the pants, and the

bay windows were simply stunning." A short time later the couple signed the papers, paying just \$1 for the deed and embarked on the lengthy odyssey of disassembling, moving, and rebuilding the place on Deer Isle. The only coastal restriction was during laws that would permit the home to be rebuilt to its original height of 36 feet. The lot they purchased came with a small farmhouse, which Damon razed so that he, Cindy, and their two children had a place to stay while the main house was rebuilt.

Four years later, the family was able to move in. What was supposed to be just a summer house has become a family's getaway—the family has spent Christmas there for the past five years. "It was a huge struggle to pull this off," Damon admits, "but I'm so glad we did. It cost a million bucks, we never could have found anything else quite like it,"

3 HEARTLAND HOMESTEAD

Ann and Kevin Mutschler PEKIN, INDIANA ISSUE: OCTOBER 2000



"I've didn't buy this house. I know we'd regret it for the rest of our lives," says Ann Mutschler, who, with her husband, Kevin, decided to ditch their fast-paced lives in San Jose, California, buy their dream home, and move across the country with their two children. "Kevin and I had always wanted to restore an old farmhouse together," says Ann. "It just happened to be in Indiana." Ann had never evicted the Hoosier State, let alone considered living there. But after reading about the quaint Gothic Revival online, Kevin decided to see it for himself. Standing in front of the house for the first time, he called Ann excitedly. "It feels like home." He shot a quick video before returning to show the family. "I remember turning up when we watched Kevin's video," says Ann. "I see the sweet porch with gingerbread trim,

and the grassy fields all around, and I knew immediately it was the life I wanted for my kids."

Some weeks later it was theirs, and the family flew across the country to take up residence in an apartment around the corner from their new home. It took Kevin nearly nine months of hard work before the family could move in. A few unexpected discoveries, including rotted joists and structural beams, pushed the timeline back.

There's still work to be done, like replacing floors in the living room and taking the second-floor bedrooms, but the family is steadfast in its commitment to the place. "I know plenty of people would tell us we're crazy for doing this," says Ann. "But I'm amazed how many have confessed that they've often dreamed of doing the same thing. And we get to live that dream every single day."



ABOVE: The choice 1800s farmhouse got a new coat of paint and a white picket fence. TOP LEFT: The kitchen looks out onto pastures that the family uses for vegetable gardening, and raising chickens. LEFT: From the beginning, Ann and Kevin were determined to do as much of the work themselves as they could—Ann built the medicine cabinet in the bathroom, and they changed the pedestal sink.

FOUR QUESTIONS FOR

Richard Trethewey

Plumbing & Heating Expert of *This Old House* since 1979

You appeared in the very first season of *This Old House* TV. How has the production of the show evolved over the years?

When we first started, we shot scenes using one big camera with a cable that was connected to a van full of video gear, and the director spoke to the crew through a bull-up speaker inside the house. Now, with handheld video monitors and wireless microphones, we're more nimble. And we have smaller digital and infrared cameras that can shoot in tight spaces and behind walls, so viewers don't miss a thing.

Are there HVAC innovations that excite you?

Electric heat pump water heater technology. Traditional units are either 100% on or off. These cold-weather heat pumps use sensors to vary compressor speed based on need, delivering maximum comfort and consuming minimal energy. I'm also impressed by heating and cooling systems that have become so small and efficient that some can be tucked into a closet—and that's been crucial in Charleston, where the home is a small rowhouse.

Charleston, the site of this season's first project house, has special meaning for you. Why?

Sumner architecture and even new builds that are respectful of the past, make Charleston one of my favorite neighbor hoods. I actually live there on my sailboat from November to April, just about a mile and half from the job site.

What can we expect to see you doing in Charleston this season?

I'm excited about sharing Charleston's rich history and attractions. This season I'll visit the Charles W. Morgan, America's oldest commercial ship still afloat, as it prepares to sail for the first time in 100 years. I'll tour Graves Light, the tallest lighthouse in the approaches to the Port of Boston, and I'll learn more about the fascinating engineering behind the Zohar Barker Hill Memorial Bridge, one of the widest cable-stayed bridges in the world.



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How do I clean rust off the tools I got from my father?

—Robert Asher
BIRMINGHAM, AL



These planes of mine were once covered in

rust too, but I got rid of it by using a 6-amp battery charger and a baking-soda solution—2 tablespoons per gallon of water—in a 5-gallon bucket. I clipped the charger's black cable to a plane body, minus its wood or brass parts, and dangled it into the solution. Then, with the red cable clipped to a partially submerged piece of clean steel that wasn't touching the plane, I cranked up the charger. Several hours later, the electric current had lifted all the rust off the plane. After a light wire brushing and a squirt of Boeshield spray, my planes have been rust-free ever since.

—Richard Hill
BIRMINGHAM, AL

THIS ISSUE, reader experts provide the answers

PHOTOGRAPH BY
TERRY HARRISON

Carpet of reader experts

**Barry Fomant**
Master plumber with SA
Mechanics Services in
Thousand Oaks, Calif.
Years in the trade: 30+**Michael Brink**
Construction manager at M.A. Construction in
Piedmont Heights, Ill.
Years in the trade: 25+**Maurice Turgeon**
Master electrician, electrical
technician at R.E. Electric
in Willowdale, Ont., Canada
Years in the trade: 50+**Ted Carter**
Landscape designer-owner
of Ted Carter's Land
Scapes, in Boston, Mass.
Years in the trade: 45+

Our usual cast of TOH TV regulars—Tom, Norm, Richard, Roger, and Kevin—is taking a well-deserved break this month from providing their expert advice and guidance. So we recruited a group of your fellow readers, pros from our online community, to pitch in and answer your home-improvement questions. The show guys will be back next issue, but if you need help before then, pay a visit to TOH's online discussion boards at advice.thisoldhouse.com or facebook.com/thisoldhouse.

Throwing old cures on weathered windows ages the window's appearance. Use new or double-paned windows so they require no extra care to look old.

I left my new wood casement windows open for most of the summer, and now some won't close tightly. Is there any way to fix this problem from the inside?

—ELISA SANTANGELO, NORWICH, N.Y.



Richard Dowd replies: Unless the hinges or opening mechanisms are broken, two things could be going on. Either the sashes were unbalanced and swelled up in the summer humidity or the windows weren't installed properly to begin with.

If swelling is the problem, try again to close them after a week or two of dry weather. If they shut, make it a priority to get a couple of coats of paint or a clear finish on them right away.

Now, if the sashes still won't shut even when dry, incorrect installation is probably the cause. Casements, more than any other window type, need to be secured and precisely aligned so that they don't fall out of square. You can see for yourself if that's the problem by looking level against the side jamb to check them for plumb and against the sill to check for level. If either of them is out of whack, the window will have to be removed and reinstalled.

Since your windows are new, I would call the installer, explain the problem, and ask him to take a look. If that route doesn't get results, call the manufacturer. They can usually send a technician out to assess and fix things at no charge to you.

Where's the hot water?

Our shower delivers very little hot water, but our other fixtures are fine. Is it safe to run a snake down the PEX tubing to a clog it?

—SCOTT MATSON, BURLINGTON, TEXAS

Rory Asawari replies: Because you have decent flow through the other hot-water outlets, I suspect the problem is with the shower valve itself, not the water-supply pipes; any debris inside a PEX supply pipe would be pushed to the valve tap-



Accumulated, low flow of hot or cold water from a showerhead may indicate that debris is clogging the shower valve.

way. Here are a few things you can do to troubleshoot the valve.

The hot-water stop on the valve body may be partly closed. To get to this stop, remove the handle and wall plate and look in the wall cavity for a threaded rod on the left side of the valve body, near where the hot-water supply pipe is attached. If the slot on the end of the rod isn't horizontal—on the open position—turn it with a screwdriver until it is.

Still not enough hot water? Try adjusting the temperature limit set, which controls how far you turn the handle. To access it, take off only the handle (the limiter sits right behind it). In most cases, you pull the limiter out of its notched housing, screw the valve stem, turn it counterclockwise slightly, and slide it back in. Replace the handle and see if the water gets hot enough. Make these adjustments in small steps—you don't want scalding water to come out of the showerhead.

If that doesn't help, debris in the cartridge may be impeding the flow. Take off the handle and wall plate and shut off the water supply at the stops on both sides of the valve body (or at the main shutoff). Then remove the valve cap or bonnet nut and pull out the cartridge. (For a schematic diagram of your valve's parts,

go to the manufacturer's website.) If there's any debris, you can flush it out at the sink by running water through its ports. Once you get everything back in reverse order and turn on the water supply, you should have plenty of hot water.

Rough lawn

The acre of yard around our house is a jumble mess of grass, buried tree stumps, and patches of dirt and weeds. What's the best way to level the lawn ourselves?

—CARL-ERIK PHILLIPS, TOPSFIELD, MASS.

Ted Carter replies: While it's possible that you and your husband could tackle this project yourselves, I think you'll both run out of energy long before it's done.

For a property the size of yours, it would make a lot of sense to hire a good landscaping contractor. He'll have the heavy equipment that can smooth out the bumps and remove the rotting stumps, and he'll have the skill to regrade your property so that water drains away from the house.

Just make sure to ask him to dress his work with at least 4 inches of good topsoil, the maximum needed to grow a decent lawn.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF THE THIS OLD HOUSE SHOW



PROJECT OF THE WEEK

HOW TO PROPAGATE FALL PERENNIALS INTO SPRING PLANTS



If you've got favorite plants such as coleus, geraniums, and impatiens still looking lush in your garden right now, and you live somewhere with a real winter, think about propagating them before they wither away.

Any tender perennial—plants grown as annuals wherever there's a sustained hard freeze—can be grown from simple-to-take cuttings. Harvest small stems before the first prolonged frost, pot them up indoors, and they'll take root over the winter in time to fill in bare spots in your landscape come spring. Just perk them on a south-facing windowsill and watch them grow.

You'll find all the tools and supplies necessary for that—and any—home project at The Home Depot nearest you.

For step-by-step instructions, go to thisoldhouse.com/project

Ask THIS OLD HOUSE



What is it?



"As tool restorers, we're always hunting for the old and unusual. We found this at a yard sale. Can you guess what it's for?"

—Michele and Ron Basso
PLAZA VILLE

1 Drills end legs, knifes beams so that they can be twisted into place.

2 Strakes barbed wire fencing, making it race and twist.

3 Keeps ends of paper towels clean and test on job sites.

4 Squares together lower beams so that they can be carried with one hand.

FOR THE ANSWER SEE PAGE 104

Ground an outlet

My satellite-TV supplier says its equipment needs a grounded outlet, but our 1940s house has only two wires. Can anything be done, short of rewiring the house?

—HELLO BARNER, HARTSVILLE, SC

Marianne Fargnoli replies: Sure, it's easy enough to ground one or two receptacles. And you really should do it for any receptacle that powers an electronic device, because without a ground, delicate circuitry can be damaged by lightning, power surges, or even static electricity.

You'll need a modern three-wire, snap-on metal (EMT) receptacle, a UL-approved brass or copper ground clamp and screw, and enough 12-gauge copper wire—either bare or with green insulation—to reach from the receptacle to an acceptable grounding location. An acceptable location would be either the metal water main supply pipe or, if the main is plastic, a grounding rod buried outside.

To start, shut off the power to the circuit you're working on and check the receptacle

and to make sure it's dead. Given the age of your house, your receptacles are probably mounted in metal boxes. If so, attach a short length of ground wire—a pigtail—to the box with a ground screw, then use a wire nut to connect this wire to a pigtail from the receptacle and to the wire going to the ground.

Fish the ground wire from the receptacle down through the wall to the grounding location. Then use the ground clamp to connect the ground wire to the grounding rod or to the metal water main pipe within 5 feet of where it enters the house and upstream of the water meter. If your house

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Dear This Old House,
We locals are proud of our past and our historic architecture, so I'm writing to you

about this lovely farmhouse I've long admired, which needs your help! Tucked between retail stores just north of our town, the Italianate beauty has impressed passersby for nearly 150 years. It was built by Daniel Ward, a store owner who headed west in 1849, and during his absence during the gold rush. He found it quickly and came home to Mishawaka, where he built this rather formal farmhouse in 1865. It's one of only a handful of buildings that survived a raging fire in 1872 and, just as impressive, the decades of development that followed. But now, to save the way for a mixed-use complex, the house is threatened with demolition. So I'm hoping a fellow reader with the resolve and the resources to step forward will rescue the house somewhere nearby.

Whoever does will have a glorious perfect Italianate, complete with a grand front porch and a rooftop cupola. The interior still has its handsome moldings, original floorboards, and a robust mantel.

In addition to being saved, the place will need some work to show like it used to. Until recently it was used as a clothing shop, so it lacks a kitchen, and it'll need updates to the electrical and plumbing systems. Whoever saves the house will have a big task but will also be the proud owner of a masterpiece that's certain to turn heads for another 150 years.

Sincerely,
—Cliff Ziegler

FREE!
grand
Italianate
farmhouse



1) The 2,500 square foot house has four bedrooms and one bath. The cost of moving the structure locally and pouring a new foundation has been estimated at \$80,000. 2) The original staircase is intact but has been painted black and gold, so have many of the floors in the house. 3) Downings throughout retain their ceilings and transoms. 4) The exterior of the house is embellished with carved brackets that match those found along the cornice line and eaves.



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